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Current Support Brief

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POSSIBLE USE OF MILITARY MICROWAVE NETWORK IN CUBA FOR COMMAND-CONTROL PURPOSES



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Research and Reports

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POSSIBLE USE OF MILITARY MICROWAVE NETWORK IN CUBA FOR COMMAND-CONTROL PURPOSES

There is as yet little positive evidence that an integrated command-control communications network for missile purposes exists in Cuba, but preliminary analysis of available data indicates that this need could be effectively met by the diversified and integrated facilities of the Cuban Military Microwave Radio Relay Network (ROCMI). A marked coincidence in the locations of identified missile sites and the terminal, relay, and feeder facilities of the ROCMI/network (as shown on the accompanying map) suggests the possible use of these facilities for the passage of air defense and missile-associated data to a central air defense and missile control center.

Installed by RCA during the Batista regime, the ROCMI network forms a main communications artery running from Santiago de Cuba through Havana to Pinar del Rio and is the principal telecommunications facility in Cuba for military traffic. At present the network uses RCA equipment that provides 24 telephone channels in the 1,700-megacycle (mc) to 1,985-mc range. With modification, however, this equipment has a capacity potential of 120 telephone channels.

The geographic coverage of the network is not limited only to mainline microwave routes. Spatial coverage is extended greatly by a sizable number of very high frequency (VHF) and ultrahigh frequency (UHF) spur lines that connect military establishments in the country with military headquarters in Havana. Besides these extensions the ROCMI network also services 22 fixed base stations that are collocated with the military VHF stations, utilizing the same antennas. These base stations communicate with some 600 communications vehicles scattered throughout the island. The UHF and VHF feeder stations and the 22 fixed base stations add considerably to the versatility and flexibility of the over-all network and could serve as the main communications medium to support integrated air defense and missile control needs. Some emergency fall-back service probably would be available from two low-capacity overhead wireline networks (one telegraph, the other telephone) that roughly parallel the ROCMI network.

2 November 1962

CIA/RR CB 62-65

Page 1

S-E-C-R-E-T

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Analyst:
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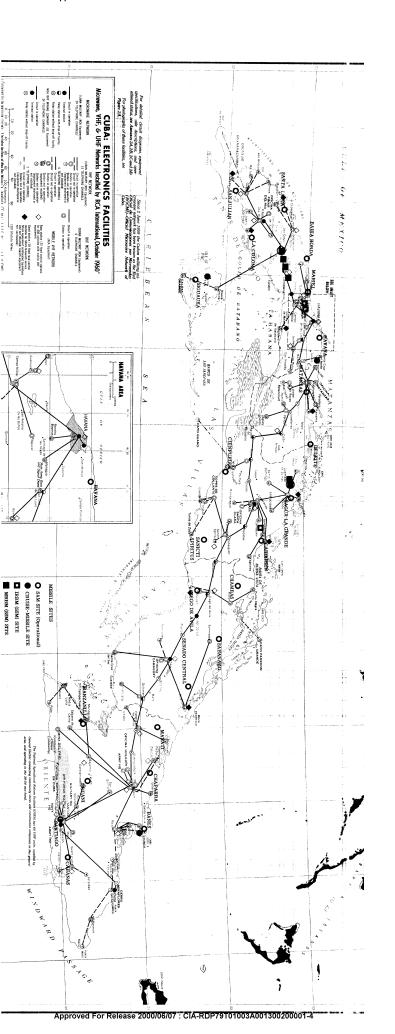
For additional details on the ROCMI network, consult the study entitled, Electronics Facilities in Cuba (CIA/RR EP 60-73). This study is a compilation covering the entire telecommunications network of Cuba as of November 1960. Details in the study that are related to the ROCMI network are contained in a map (CIA number 29400) and a list of facilities (29400-1). It is cautioned, however, that there have been some additions to this network as well as to other telecommunications facilities since the study was completed.

2 November 1962

CIA/RR CB 62-65

Page 2

S-E-C-R-E-T



S-E-C-R-E-T

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